

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, and 18-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 13 and 16 are independent. Claims 6, 8, 9, 12, and 16 are amended. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. The subject matter recited in claim 7 is incorporated into claim 6. The dependency of claims 8 and 9 is altered as necessitated by the cancellation of claim 7.

In section 7 on pages 3-13, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,225,999 to Jain et al. (hereinafter "Jain") and U.S. Patent No. 6,836,275 to Arquie et al. (hereinafter "Arquie"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites "selecting said interactive connector icon for displaying a pop-up window showing a multiple link connector (MLC) list where each outside link object is associated with the respective group object" (emphasis added). Claims 6, 13, and 16 contain similar recitations.

As disclosed in paragraph [0024], this pop-up window provides the operator with information on outside links connected to network devices on the current map. As further recited in paragraph [0027], certain links on the current map connect network devices within the map to outside groups. Thus, as depicted in Figure 2, lists [32] depict how each outside device is linked to a network device resident on the map. In addition, as described in paragraph [0032], the list organizer [46] prepares the multiple link connector list [21] that associates outside links to groups on the current map.

Applicant respectfully submits that Jain fails to disclose, teach, or suggest this subject matter. Jain's system discloses a pop-up menu 34 which displays a list of commands to the user. See Figure 6 and lines 62-67 of column 7. Thus, the pop-up menu 34 of Jain does not show an MLC list wherein each outside link object is associated with a respective group object. Instead, in response to user selection of a command from the list, Jain's system displays adjacent peer routers on the network map itself, not within the pop-up menu.

Applicant respectfully submits that Arquie also fails to disclose, teach, or suggest this subject matter. Arquie's system displays a pop-up text information box 148 to provide more information about the multiple connection when the user places pointer 142 in proximity of a connection line 44. See lines 46-56 of column 3. The pop-up text information box 148 indicates the number of connections, the bandwidth of each connection, the type of connection, etc. However, Arquie's system does not display an MLC, wherein each outside link object is associated with a group object.

Accordingly, Jain and Arquie fail to disclose, teach, or suggest "selecting said interactive connector icon for displaying a pop-up window showing a multiple link connector (MLC) list where each outside link object is associated with the respective group object," as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 6, 13, and 16.

Claims 3-5 are allowable based at least on their dependencies from claim 1. Claims 8-12 are allowable based at least on their dependencies from claim 6. Claims 14 and 15 are allowable based at least on their dependencies from claim 13. Claims 18-20 are allowable based at least on

their dependencies from claim 16. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

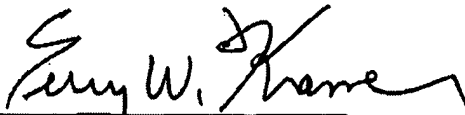
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 3-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jain and Arquie be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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